

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CU-04 CA-01 EB-08 COME-00
AGRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 PC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 PPT-01 LAB-04
SIL-01 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 WRDE-00 /082 W
-----100212 311307Z /50

O R 311155Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0333
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0577

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, SHUM, SF, (BOPHUTHATSWANA)
SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO BOPHUTHATSWANA

REF: STATE 308830 (77); STATE 288272 (77)

1. SUMMARY: NO TRAVEL CONTROLS HAVE BEEN EXERCISED BY
BOPHUTHATSWANA ON USG TRAVELLERS IN TRANSIT. REQUEST
AUTHORITY TO VISIT BOPHUTHATSWANA FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES.
NEED URGENT APPROVAL OF FORTHCOMING VISIT TO RUSTENBURG
PLATINUM MINE. END SUMMARY

2. REF A ASKED WHETHER WE ARE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS WITH
GUIDANCE ON TRANSIT OF BOPHUTHATSWANA. THE EXACT
LOCATION OF BORDER POSTS AS WELL AS DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS
FOR TRAVEL INTO OR THROUGH BOPHUTHATSWANA ARE STILL UNCLEAR.
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OFFICIAL TRAVEL BY POSTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE BLS
COUNTRIES HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE WITHOUT THE
NECESSITY OF GOING THROUGH BOPHUTHATSWANA CHECKPOSTS
THAT REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION. THEREFORE WE HAVE NO
FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS. WE
ARE TOLD BY SOUTH AFRICANS AND BOPHUTHATSWANA
CITIZENS WHO HAVE TRAVELLED THROUGH OR TO THE HOMELAND

RECENTLY THAT, AS FAR AS THEY UNDERSTAND, A FOREIGN PRIVATE TRAVELLER WHO HAS A VALID SOUTH AFRICAN VISA IS NOT REQUIRED TO ACCEPT A VISA OR OTHER STAMP WHEN TRAVELLING THROUGH OR TO BOPHUTHATSWANA. IN ANY CASE, THE ONLY POSTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF WHERE ANY KIND OF DOCUMENTATION OR FORMALITY WOULD BE REQUIRED ARE THE "WILLOWS" POST ON THE ZEERUST-LOBATSE ROAD AND ANOTHER ONE NEAR RAMOTSWA, SOUTH OF GABORONE. SINCE THESE POSTS CAN BE AVOIDED, TRAVELLERS DO NOT IN PRACTICE HAVE TO SUBMIT TO TRAVEL CONTROL. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS SITUATION FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES OR EXTENSIONS OF DOCUMENTATION CONTROL.

3. WE ARE, IN FACT, EXPERIENCING NO PROBLEM ON TRANSIT GUIDANCE BUT DO HAVE SOME PRACTICAL AND IMPORTANT PROBLEMS ARISING FROM NON-TRANSIT TRAVEL. THIS REFERS PARTICULARLY TO THE PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS OF MABOPANE AND GARANKUWA AND OTHER COMMUNITIES CLOSELY LINKED ECONOMICALLY WITH THE REPUBLIC. AT PRESENT, AS WE READ REF B, WE ARE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THESE AREAS.

4. THIS RESTRICTION GIVES THE MISSION THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS:
(A) SEVERAL OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT BLACK COMMUNITY CONTACTS, INCLUDING STUDENT LEADERS, LIVE IN THESE AREAS AND ARE NOW DENIED US UNLESS THEY CAN COME TO PRETORIA, A PROPOSITION THAT IS DIFFICULT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTICULAR FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES. THIS ALSO MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MONITOR FIRST-HAND ANY ACTIVITIES IN THESE TOWNSHIPS.

(B) OUR ABILITY TO MONITOR MINING AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES AROUND BABELEGI, BRITS AND RUSTENBURG IS SERIOUSLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. US FIRMS (E.G. UNION CARBIDE VANADIUM MINE, AND BORDEN AND G.E. PLANTS) ARE IN THESE AREAS.

(C) OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF, IN PARTICULAR THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE WHO NEEDS TO SURVEY IMPORTANT MAIZE GROWING AREAS AND STOCK RAISING SCHEMES IN AND NEAR HOMELAND, FIND THIS RESTRICTION A SEVERE INCONVENIENCE. BLACK BUSINESSMEN OF BOPHUTHATSWANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MUST BE ASKED TO COME TO REPUBLIC TO MEET WITH US.

5. THIS PROBLEM OF NON-TRANSIT IS ONE THAT HAS NOT BEEN ADDRESSED IN PREVIOUS TRAFFIC ON BOPHUTHATSWANA, BUT IS ONE THAT WILL COME UP NOT ONLY WITH BOPHUTHATSWANA BUT OTHER HOMELANDS SEEKING INDEPENDENCE SOON, E.G. LEBOWA, THEREBY CUTTING OFF ACCESS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE NORTH, TURFLOOP. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN TO BE

AUTHORIZED TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR SUCH TRAVEL ON
AN INDIVIDUAL AND SELECTIVE BASIS, AS LONG AS NO
TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED.

6. A SAMPLING OF THE AUSTRALIAN, GERMAN AND BRITISH EMBASSIES
INDICATES THAT THEY DO NOT PROHIBIT VISITS TO BOPHUTHATSWANA.

7. PRETORIA ECONOMIC OFFICERS AND AF/S DESK OFFICER
CLAGETT TAYLOR ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT BY AIR TWO
INSTALLATIONS OF RUSTENBURG MINE, LARGEST PLATINUM MINE
IN THE WORLD, ON FEBRUARY 8. ALTHOUGH MINERS ARE
PREDOMINANTLY IN REPUBLIC, WE ARE TOLD IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT TOUR WITHOUT STEPPING INTO
TERRITORY OF BOPHUTHATSWANA. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO PROCEED
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WITH THIS VISIT, PARTICULARLY TO EXPLORE CERTAIN
LABOR UNION AND TAXATION ISSUES THAT HAVE ARISEN.

8. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) PERMISSION TO VISIT RUSTENBURG MINE WITH DEPARTMENT'S
REPLY NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 2 SO FINAL ARRANGEMENTS CAN
BE MADE.

(B) AUTHORITY FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN TO APPROVE
VISITS TO BOPHUTHATSWANA IN INDIVIDUALLY JUSTIFIED
CIRCUMSTANCES, WITH PROVISOS THAT NO TRAVEL CONTROLS
ACCEPTED AND NO CONTACTS INITIATED WITH BOPHUTHATSWANA
OFFICIALS AT NATIONAL LEVEL.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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